

THE Shadow

DYNAMITE 7

VICTOR GISCHLER • JACK HERBERT



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DYNAMITE
No 7

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THE Shadow®

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ONCE THE
LEAD HAS BEEN
SPENT...

SO IT'S
JUST *US*.

AND
YOU'RE OUT
OF LEAD.



...STEEL MUST
SUFFICE.



SOMETIMES THE *OLD*
WAYS ARE BEST, EH,
MY FRIEND?

AND JUST LIKE BEFORE,
I CAN'T READ HIM. NO MATTER
HOW HARD I TRY.



I *KNOW* THERE
IS EVIL IN THIS MAN'S
HEART. BUT *ANYONE*
COULD GUESS THAT.



AND
WHAT IF I
SUGGESTED WE
JUST WALK
AWAY?



DO YOU
REALLY THINK WE
CAN *BOTH* SIMPLY
WALK AWAY...



...AFTER
SO MUCH HAS
HAPPENED?

भारत सीमा सभा
INDIAN BORDER END

NO.
NOT REALLY.

BUT I DO BRIEFLY WONDER
EXACTLY HOW WE GOT HERE.
AND IF ANYTHING COULD HAVE
BEEN DONE DIFFERENTLY.



NEW YORK CITY...
FIVE DAYS EARLIER.

MR. CRANSTON,
WE GOT A MILES
CROFTON IN THE
LOBBY HERE
FOR YOU.

SEND HIM UP,
FRANK.

THANKS FOR
BEING ON TIME,
MILES.

NO PROBLEM,
MR. CRANSTON. MY BAG'S
DOWN IN THE CAR, AND THE
BOYS ARE FUELING THE
BIRD AS WE SPEAK.

EXCELLENT. I'D HAVE
MET YOU AT THE AIRFIELD,
BUT I CAN USE AN
EXTRA HAND.



AS YOU
CAN SEE, I'M NOT
EXACTLY PACKING
LIGHT.



YOU STILL
HAVEN'T TOLD
ME WHAT
THIS TRIP IS
ABOUT.

BUT CONSIDERING YOUR LUGGAGE,
I'M GUESSING *INTENSE* RECREATION.
AND SINCE WE'RE NOT TAKING THE
GYRO-COPTER, I'M ASSUMING THIS
AIN'T A QUICK JUMP TO NIAGRA
FALLS AND BACK.



NO. NOT
A QUICK JUMP
AT ALL.



AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'M NOT SURE *HOW LONG* WE'LL BE GONE. YOU CAN BACK OUT IF YOU WANT, MILES.

I WON'T HOLD IT AGAINST YOU.

I'LL LET YOU IN ON A LITTLE SECRET, BOSS.



NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE AROUND *EAGER* TO HIRE A ONE-EYED PILOT.



I WAS THE *BEST* IN THE WAR. THEY PINNED ENOUGH METAL ON ME TO SINK A DESTROYER.

BUT THAT ONLY GETS YOU SO FAR IN CIVILIAN LIFE.



SO I'M YOUR MAN, MR. CRANSTON. IF THERE'S ONE THING MILES CROFTON IS *NOT*, IT'S AN INGRATE.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.

AND ONE MORE THING. SEEMS LIKE YOU MIGHT BE HEADED FOR TROUBLE.



SO WHATEVER HAPPENS, BOSS, I GOT YOUR BACK.

STILL, IT WOULD BE NICE TO KNOW WHERE WE'RE HEADED.



EAST. FAR EAST.

IT SEEMS LIKE A LIFETIME AGO THAT I STUDIED THE MYSTIC ARTS WITH THE OLD MASTERS.

I CAN READ THE HEARTS OF MEN, SEE THE EVIL THERE...OR THE GOOD.

I CAN CLOUD MEN'S MINDS.



UNTIL ONE DAY...I COULDN'T.

I MET A MAN I COULDN'T READ, COULDN'T CLOUD. A BAD MAN.

AND I MADE A MISTAKE.

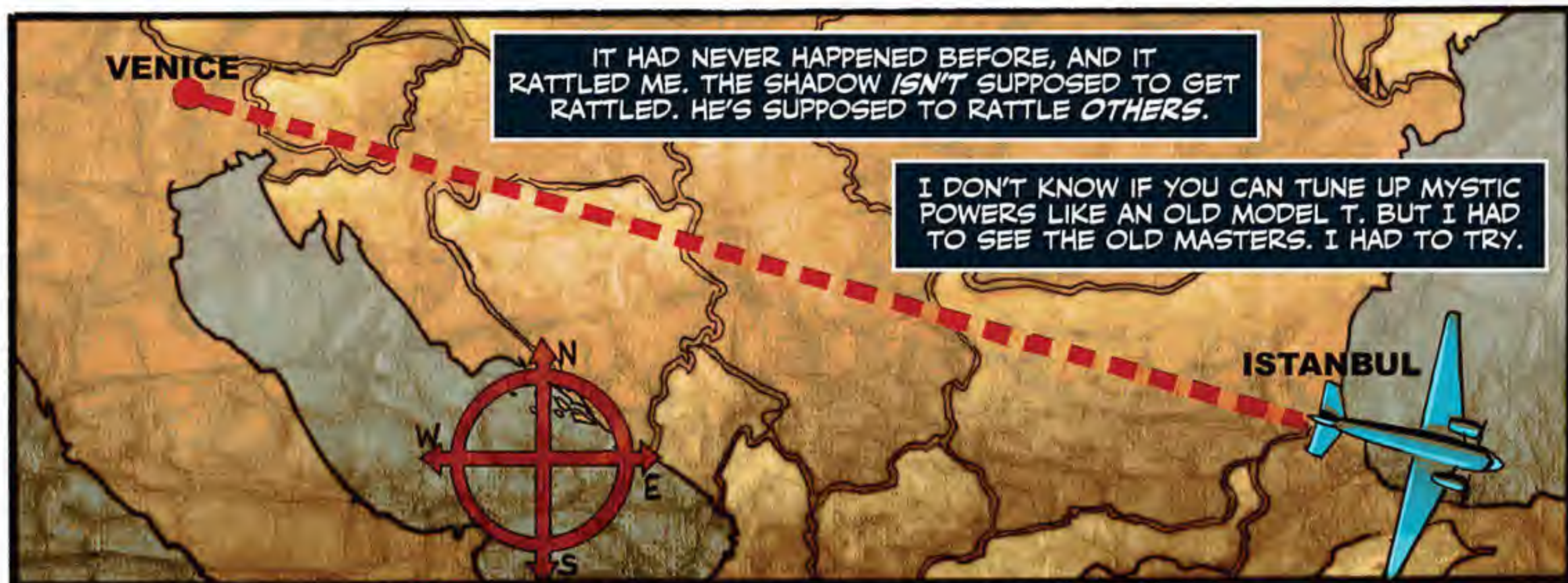


VENICE

IT HAD NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE, AND IT RATTLED ME. THE SHADOW *ISN'T* SUPPOSED TO GET RATTLED. HE'S SUPPOSED TO RATTLE *OTHERS*.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN TUNE UP MYSTIC POWERS LIKE AN OLD MODEL T. BUT I HAD TO SEE THE OLD MASTERS. I HAD TO TRY.

ISTANBUL



NEPAL

SO IT'S NO WONDER THAT AFTER TRAVELING THOUSANDS OF MILES, FATIGUED AND EXHAUSTED FROM TRAVERSING MULTIPLE TIMES ZONES, THAT I HAD THE DREAM AGAIN.





I DON'T
THINK THIS IS
A SHORTCUT,
DEAR.

PLEASE,
I KNOW THIS
CITY LIKE
THE BACK OF
MY HAND.

HAND OVER
THE WALLET,
BUB.

HOW *DARE* YOU!
GET THE HELL OUT
OF HERE RIGHT NOW
OR I'LL--

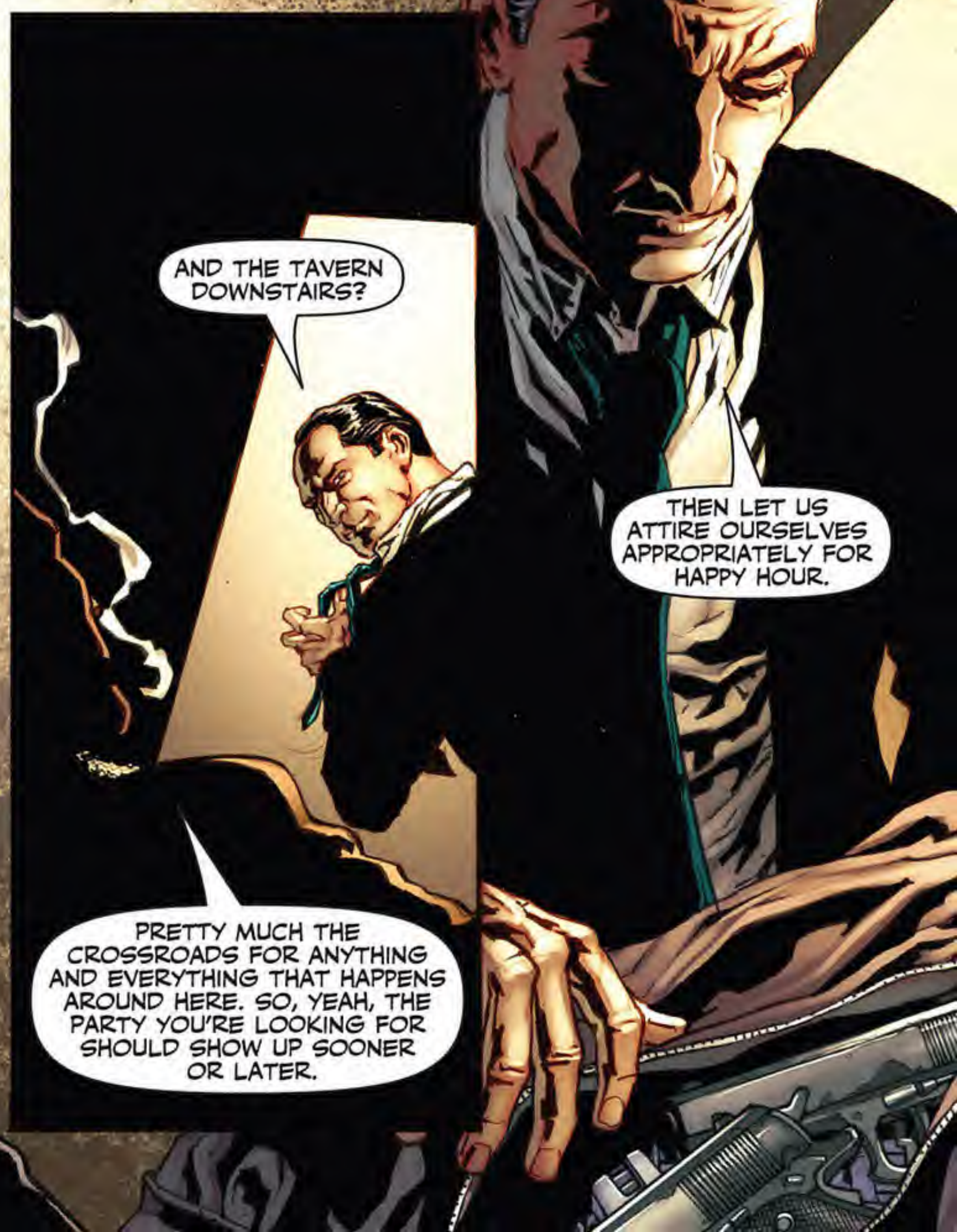
AAARRGGGH

PLEASE!
NO!

HANDS
OFF THE
LADY!

I...I CAN'T READ
YOU AT ALL. YOU'RE
A BLANK. YOU'RE...
NOBODY.

NO...NO...





ARE YOU *SURE* THIS IS A GOOD IDEA, SIR? TECHNICALLY, THERE IS NO REASON FOR US TO BE OVER THE BORDER INTO NEPAL.

I DON'T EXPECT TO SINGLE-HANDEDLY HALT OPIUM SMUGGLING INTO INDIA, CAPTAIN. BUT I CAN AT LEAST MAKE SURE THE BASTARDS DON'T COME THROUGH MY JURISDICTION.

THE LADS ARE WAITING JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PASS, AND I'LL DO WHAT I FEEL I MUST.

SO YOU'RE THIS *RED RAJA* FELLOW, EH?

NOW SEE HERE. WE ALL *KNOW* THIS BORDER TOWN GUARDS THE PASS DOWN INTO INDIA. I'M NOT HERE TO MINCE WORDS. THE FLOW OF OPIUM STOPS, AND IT STOPS *NOW*.



I KNEW EVEN BEFORE I SAW HIM THAT HE'D BE LIKE ME. CALL IT INTUITION.



RED RAJA! SO GOOD OF YOU TO GRACE MY HUMBLE ESTABLISHMENT. I WILL HAVE FOOD AND DRINK BROUGHT TO YOUR USUAL TABLE.

UH...AND ALSO...



THE *BRITISH* ARE HERE...AS YOU HAVE FORESEEN.

BRING THEM TO ME.

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, MAJOR. YOU'VE INVESTIGATED THE SITUATION. EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL. YOU'VE DONE A *GOOD JOB*.

YOUR MEN CAMPED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PASS ARE COLD AND HUNGRY. THEY'D LIKE TO GO HOME.



AND AT THE SAME TIME, *NOT* LIKE ME AT ALL.

GLAD WE CONFIRMED EVERYTHING IS *OKAY* HERE, CAPTAIN. NEVER HURTS TO BE CAREFUL. NOW LET'S GET THE LADS BACK TO BASE AND OUT OF THE WIND.

RIGHT *AFTER* WE HAVE ONE FOR THE ROAD OF COURSE.

WITH THE POWER TO CLOUD MEN'S MINDS, THE RED RAJA DISPOSED OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT.

LOCAL CRIME BOSS. A LITTLE MAN WITH BIG POWERS.

NOW LET'S SEE HOW HE HANDLES A CURVE BALL.

RED RAJA, I HOPE I'M NOT INTRUDING. MY NAME IS LAMONT CRANSTON. I WANTED TO MEET YOU.

AND AT THAT MOMENT I CAN SEE IT IN HIS FACE. THE SAME SICK BEWILDERMENT I FELT IN THE ALLEY WHEN THE MUGGER WAS A CLOSED BOOK TO ME.

HE'S LOOKING STRAIGHT AT ME AND CAN'T SEE A THING. AND *THAT* WORRIES HIM.

AND WHAT IS IT YOU THINK I CAN DO FOR YOU, MR. CRANSTON?

I'M IN TOWN TO VISIT SOME OLD FRIENDS. THE OLD MASTERS WHO LIVED IN THE TEMPLE UP THE MOUNTAIN.

BAD TIMING, I GUESS, AS THEY'VE ALL BEEN MURDERED AND THE TEMPLE BURNED TO THE GROUND. IMAGINE THAT.

AS A MAN OF SOME IMPORTANCE AROUND HERE, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO *EXPLAIN* THAT.



THEY STUCK THEIR
NOSES IN WHERE THEY
WEREN'T WANTED. NOW
THEY ARE *DEAD*.

AND *THAT*
IS ALL THE
EXPLANATION
YOU *NEED*.

I SUGGEST
YOU TAKE THE *HINT*,
MR. CRANSTON.



HE REACTED
JUST LIKE YOU
SAID HE WOULD,
BOSS. HOW'D
YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE
I'VE BEEN
IN HIS SHOES,
MILES.

GET ALL THE
LUGGAGE BACK TO
THE PLANE. BE READY
TO LEAVE BEFORE
DAWN.

ALREADY?

PLANS
CHANGE IN THE BLINK
OF AN EYE.

I JUST
NEED TO RUN A FEW
ERRANDS FIRST.

YOU CAME HERE
WITH A *PURPOSE*,
MAJOR.

DO NOT
BE SO EASILY
DISSUADED.

BEFORE I LEAVE THE TAVERN, I QUESTION THE
LOCALS. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO
THE TEMPLE. *REAL* ANSWERS, NOT JUST THE
POSTURINGS OF A PETTY GANG LORD.



EVERYONE GIVES ME THE SAME NAME.



COME IN...
IF YOU WISH.

HELLO,
HWONG.

DON'T YOU
FIND THIS OPEN
WINDOW A BIT
CHILLY?



I TAKE MOON
WEED FOR MY ACHING
JOINTS. A SIDE EFFECT IS
THAT I AM *ALWAYS*
TOO WARM.

I AM AN
HERBALIST. I MAKE
MANY GOOD POTIONS
FROM WHAT I FIND. FOR
EXAMPLE, THIS IS EXTRACT
OF MATIBAY ROOT. IT CAN
PARALYZE A MAN
FOR A DAY.

BUT YOU ARE NOT
HERE TO PURCHASE MY
WARES, I THINK.



A
QUESTION.

ASK THEN.

THE TEMPLE.
RED RAJA.

AH.



RED RAJA WAS A
STUDENT OF THE OLD
MASTERS, BUT HE WAS
EXPELLED BECAUSE OF THE
EVIL IN HIS HEART. WHEN THE
MASTERS SPOKE AGAINST
THE OPIUM GANGSTERS, RED
RAJA DECIDED IT WAS
TIME TO *END* THEM.

THEY RESISTED
ALMOST NOT AT ALL.
IT WAS AS IF THEY WERE
TIRED OF THE WORLD,
TIRED OF HUMANITY
ITSELF.


OR PERHAPS
THEY'D SIMPLY
GROWN TOO
OLD.



NOW, ASK
YOUR *OTHER*
QUESTION.

WHY DO YOU
THINK THERE'S
ANOTHER?

ANYONE IN TOWN
COULD HAVE ANSWERED
THE FIRST QUESTION.
ALL KNOW RED RAJA HAS A
STRANGLEHOLD ON THIS
PLACE, HOW HE ROSE
TO POWER.



THEY SAY YOU STUDIED
WITH THE MASTERS.


FOR THREE
YEARS. BUT I FAILED
THE FINAL TESTS.
I'M NO MASTER, BUT
I WILL TRY TO
ANSWER.

I HAVE THE POWER TO
READ A MAN'S HEART, TO SEE
GOOD OR EVIL THERE, TO GLIMPSE
THE SECRETS OF HIS LIFE.




THEN ONE DAY, A
MAN WAS BLANK TO ME.
SUDDENLY FELT BLIND.
I *FROZE* AND LET
HIM ESCAPE.

I LATER LEARNED
HE KILLED SOMEBODY IN A
ROBBERY. I *LET* THAT HAPPEN.



LET IT HAPPEN,
EH? IT IS THE
ARROGANT MAN
WHO THINK HE
CONTROLS FATE.
WE CANNOT SEE
ALL ENDS. WHO
KNOWS? MAYBE
THIS BAD MAN
KILLED SOMEONE
WHO WAS EVEN
WORSE.

THE COSMOS *RARELY*
GRANTS US THE PRIVILEGE
TO KNOW THE END RESULTS
OF ALL OUR ACTIONS. FOR
GOOD OR FOR EVIL.



I HAVE NO ANSWERS FOR YOU.
BUT I REMEMBER THE MASTERS
WERE FOND OF ANSWERING
QUESTIONS WITH QUESTIONS.
SO...

THESE GREAT
POWERS YOU POSSESS?
DO THEY SERVE YOU,
OR DO *YOU* SERVE
THEM?

NOW COME.
AN OLD MAN MUST
EARN A LIVING. LET ME
SELL YOU A BOWL OF THIS
CALMING POTION. THE
PERFECT THING FOR
A TROUBLED...



...MIND?

AS I PONDER HWONG'S WORDS,
I REALIZE I'VE MADE A LONG JOURNEY
FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS.

HURRY THE
HELL UP. I WANT
TO GET THROUGH
THE PASS BEFORE
THE WEATHER
GETS BAD.

IF YOU KNOW
A WAY TO MAKE
THESE DUMB ANIMALS
MOVE FASTER, I'M
ALL EARS.

THE OLD MASTERS WERE
WISE, BUT THEY WERE ALWAYS
RELUCTANT TO ANSWER
STUPID, SELFISH QUESTIONS.

IN THE MEANTIME,
I CAN ACCOMPLISH
SOME GOOD HERE.
I DON'T NEED TO
READ THE RED
RAJA'S HEART TO
KNOW HE
DESERVES WHAT
I'M ABOUT TO
DO TO HIM.

BOOM

WHAT
THE--?!

WHERE DID
THAT COME
FROM?

LOOK
OUT!

WHO THE
HELL IS--?!

BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM

THEY COULD HAVE RUN.
THEY CHOOSE TO FIGHT.

BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM

THEY CHOOSE TO DIE.

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

WHAT IS IT?
AN ATTACK? SEND
FOR RED RAJA!

DROP IT.

N-NO.
NOOOOO!

YES.

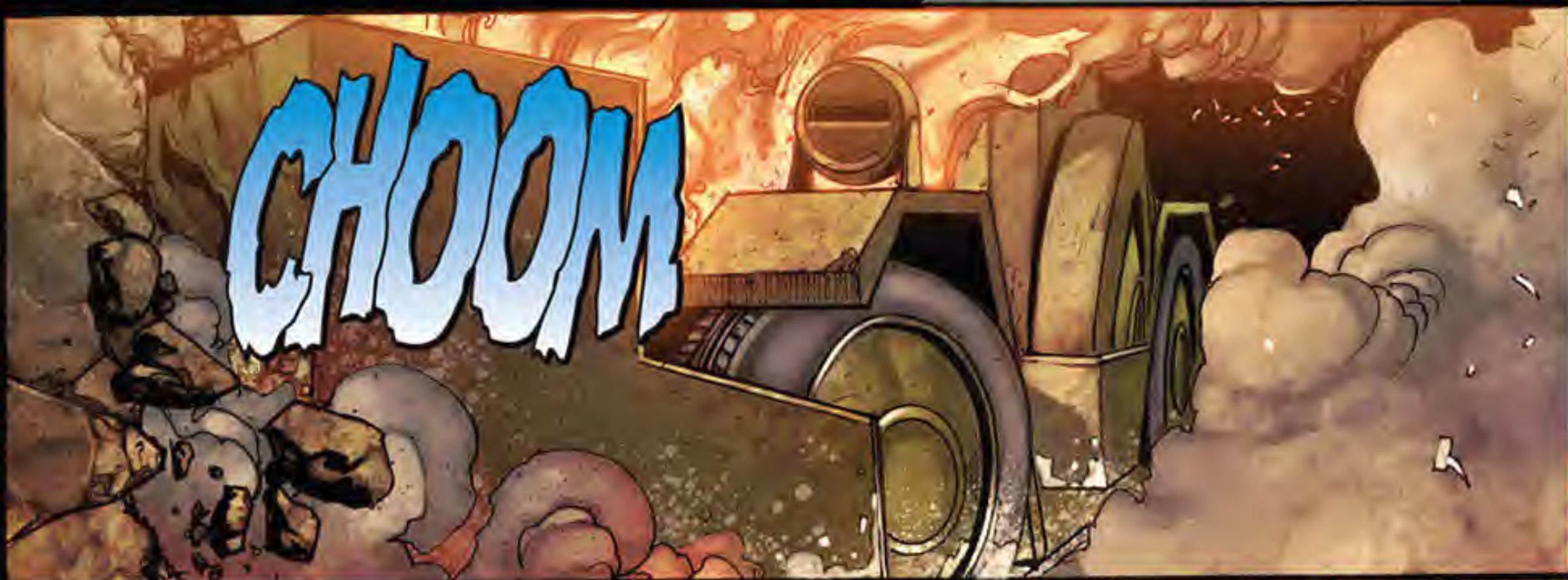
BLAM

THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE,
AND THEY DIE SCREAMING.

I HAVE *ONE* BLIND SPOT.
AND EVEN THOUGH I BRACE FOR IT,
EVEN AS I READY MYSELF...







BLAM RATT-TATT-TATT-TATT-TATT.


AAARRRGHH

BLAM

BLAM

WELL, WE KNOW WHERE
THIS ENDS UP, DON'T WE?


THIS TOWN WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT
OPIUM THUGS ANYMORE, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S
WHY FATE BROUGHT ME HERE. NOT REALLY.



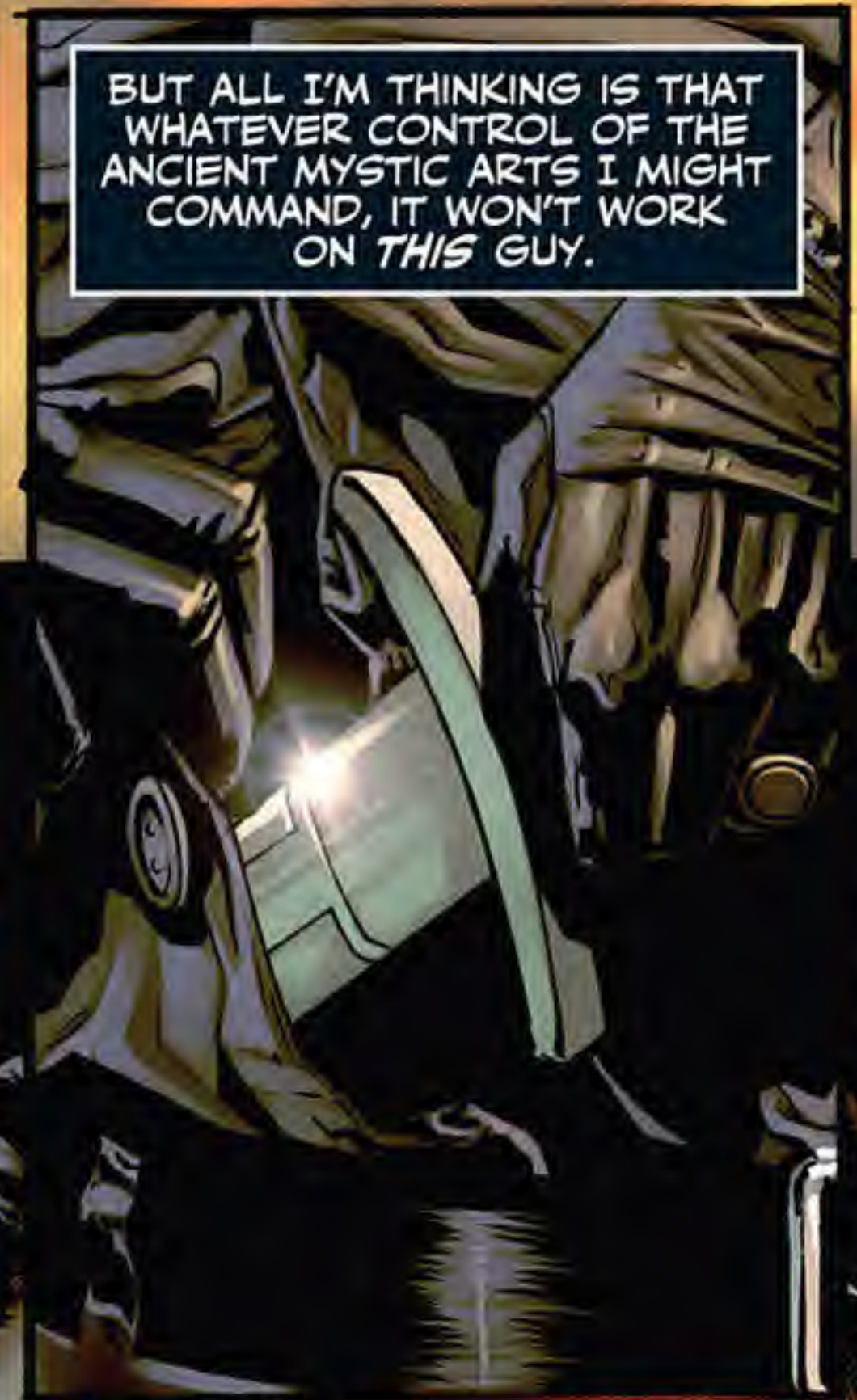
SO IT'S
JUST US.

AND
YOU'RE OUT
OF LEAD.

KLIK KLIK KLIK



THERE IS THE PERFUNCTORY
TOUGH GUY PATTERN. I KNOW
THE SCRIPT BY HEART NOW.



BUT ALL I'M THINKING IS THAT
WHATEVER CONTROL OF THE
ANCIENT MYSTIC ARTS I MIGHT
COMMAND, IT WON'T WORK
ON *THIS* GUY.



AND NONE OF *HIS*
HOCUS POCUS IS GOING
TO WORK ON *ME*.



THAT JUST
LEAVES TWO MEN.

TRYING TO KILL
EACH OTHER.

DIE!

NNGAAAH





AH-HA HA HA HA



YOU'LL HAVE TO DO **BETTER** THAN THAT, MY FRIEND. AT THIS RATE--



G-G-GAK



I'VE BEEN TOLD EXTRACT OF MATIBAY ROOT CAN PARALYZE A MAN. A LITTLE DAB ON THE DAGGER GOES A LONG WAY.

DO YOU KNOW *WHY* I CAME ALL THIS WAY?



WELL, I DON'T EITHER. NOT REALLY. I'VE LEARNED IT'S ARROGANT TO EXPECT ANSWERS TO SUCH QUESTIONS.

BUT I *DID* LEARN SOMETHING.



POWER IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE MAN WHO WIELDS IT. IT CAN'T TRANSFORM YOU INTO ANYTHING BUT A PETTY THUG.

AND IT CAN'T MAKE ME ANYTHING ELSE BUT... WELL...WHATEVER I AM.



DYNAMITE®

IN THE NEWS - OCT. 2012

HE BOYS CONCLUDES WITH
ISSUE #72 THIS NOVEMBER!!!
THE END OF AN ERA!!!



It's an end of an era this coming November, as The Boys conclude their historic run with issue #72! The Boys has been one of the most critically acclaimed books on the shelves, but writer Garth Ennis always intended for the series to be finite and issue #72 is his final statement on The Boys! Look for it this November!!!

In The Boys #72, the long day closes on the Brooklyn Bridge, as our hero finally meets his destiny. There's one last deal to be done, As Stillwell finds out the real cost of doing business, and one last surprise for Rayner too- as she begins her long-dreamed of political career. The Boys' story comes to an end in this final issue containing 24 pages of story, 5 pin-up pages of brand-new art as well as a complete cover gallery!!!

"Seventy-two issues plus three minis adds up to ninety issues, making this a very busy six years - more than six years, of course, because we very nearly didn't make it," says writer Garth Ennis. "But all's well that ends well. I finished #72 well over a year before it's due to see print, and I've been missing

Butcher and Hughie ever since. Goodbye, Boys. I doubt we'll see your like again."

"The end of The Boys with this issue ends a chapter in my career I will always look back upon as a significant challenge," adds artist Darick Robertson. "I am proud of the work I've done on the book and will miss it."

"Endings are always bittersweet, but this book has always been just that, bittersweet," says Dynamite Editor Joe Rybandt. "There's not much left to say except thanks to Garth, Darick, Russ, Tony and Simon for all of their incredible work month in and month out. Cheers, all."

"The Boys will be missed. The good news is it's a great ending with a complete story, and is going out on top," states Dynamite President and Publisher Nick Barrucci. "Garth and Darick created the series with characters and stories that can never be replicated. I want to thank Garth and Darick for their faith in us, and look forward to future series with both creators. This is a series whose legacy will live on as trade paperbacks. I also want to thank DC Entertainment, especially Paul (Levitz), Jim (Lee), Dan (DiDio) and Hank (Kanalz), and many more - who helped make the transition as smooth as possible and allowed fans to continue to enjoy one of the best comics in the market. And, most importantly, thank you to the fans and the retailers who supported the series throughout. The Boys has been a fun ride."

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WWW.DYNAMITE.NET/BOARDS

NEXT ISSUE:



THE SHADOW #8

Revolutionary Part 1 (of 4) - The Shadow traveled to Nepal to investigate a strange glitch in his mystic powers. He left with only partial answers. Now The Shadow and Miles Crofton, his pilot and sidekick, pause in Paris to take on some gun runners who are smuggling weapons bound for Spain. But a dark-eyed Spanish beauty named Esmeralda complicates matters when Cranston is unable to determine her intentions. The Shadow finds himself smack dab in the middle of the Spanish Civil War as he juggles the fate of a single soldier who might help shape the future of humanity.

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FEATURED REVIEWS

DAMSELS #1
(BLEEDINGCOOL.COM):

"There's a richness and delight to the art that backs up the script. Details here matter, you need to keep your eyes open for characters who will be more important panels or pages later."

DAMSELS #1
(ICV2.COM):

"Leah Moore and John Reppion, aided by some beautiful art by Aneke, do a remarkable job of creating a richly realized fairy tale world that manages to avoid most of the genre's more obvious cliches and uses its characters in surprising ways. Damsels is a fantasy likely to appeal to the widest possible audience."

DAMSELS #1
(UNLEASHTHEFANBOY.COM):

"Damsels #1 is a very entertaining first issue that easily earns a recommendation."

DAMSELS #1
(BROKENFRONTIER.COM):

"this first story reads like one of the best set-up stories I have read in recent times."

THE LONE RANGER: SNAKE OF IRON #2
(MAJORSPOILERS.COM):

"The Lone Ranger: Snake of Iron #2 is an extremely well-done book with beautiful panels, fantastic writing and an engrossing setting."

PETER CANNON: THUNDERBOLT #1
(BROKENFRONTIER.COM):

"Dynamite's Peter Cannon: Thunderbolt is a fun, exciting read that sets the stage for the return of a true lost comics treasure."

PETER CANNON: THUNDERBOLT #1
(UNLEASHTHEFANBOY.COM):

"From start to finish, Peter Cannon is a fascinating hero that aspires to be a global savior while attempting to be the anti-superhero."

He's a serious man who's willing to do whatever it takes to reach his ultimate goals, to the point that he throws away genre tropes in an attempt to meet his ends."

PROPHECY #3
(NEWSARAMA.COM):

"Marz, Geovani, and Lucas are doing everything right, from huge stakes to gorgeous art and a sense that anything's possible. Prophecy may be the best book you're not reading right now. Don't overlook it."

THE BOYS #70
(UNLEASHTHEFANBOY.COM):

"This calm suspense also gives Hughie a lot of time to himself. Whether it's talking to himself, a fireman, or simply his hamster, there is a lot of dialogue. It's highly effective too; Hughie as the main character has always been somewhat talkative. This issue uses this to great effect, highlighting his fear and anxiety."

JESSE BLAZE SNIDER ON THE RETURN OF EVIL ERNIE
By Tony Guerrero for WWW.COMICVINE.COM



Evil Ernie is coming back. Jesse Blaze Snider, Jason Craig and Dynamite Entertainment are getting ready to show him to us for the first time. That's right, the first time. I'll admit, I didn't read the character when he first debuted but after reading quite a bit of this first issue, I'm impressed. There is a nice mix of darkness and story-telling involved that wipes out any preconceived notions I had about the character.

Jesse Blaze Snider took the time to answer some of our questions as the series prepares to make its way to comic book shelves this October.

Evil Ernie is getting a new origin. Where did this decision come from? Is this a completely fresh start?

I just assumed it would have to be a fresh start doing the Chaos Universe without Lady Death, so I pitched it as a fresh start, that takes the best parts of the original, but tries to make some improvements and modernize it a little bit, storytelling wise.

Was there complete control in determining how to redefine the character?

So far so good. I think they saw that I got why people liked Ernie and I think they were excited about my more "real world" approach to the usually grandiose and cheesy Heaven and Hell opuses.

Besides his look (and Smiley), what other similarities will he have to previous series?

Well his look won't be the same for long. Jason Craig came up with an amazing redesign and I'm using it! It's badass! Can't wait to see it on him. Jason has really gotten to the scripts and has been a wealth of great ideas since we started the process, it a really cool collaborative process. I'm loving it.

The first issue sounds pretty intense and violent. How will it compare to the rest of the series/future issues?

It only gets worse! And by worse I mean good for you, worse for Ernie and everyone around him!

Our book is plenty violent, but its also tempered with some great themes. Good people doing bad things. Learning that life is shade of grey. It tries to answer the question of "nature versus nurture" and "Why do the good die young?" And really tries to blur the many lines between right and wrong. I really enjoy writing it, there's so much great emotional stuff to play with.

Will there be any familiar faces from past volumes?

Not too many in the first arc. Ernie, Smiley and General Ramsey, but he really only has a bit part. Eventually I'm gonna start opening up the world a bit. But I really wanna make an Ernie centric arc to kick things off. Make sure the audience really gives a crap about Ernie before we start introducing you to other people.

How long will the first arc run?

The first arc is six, 22 page issues, though Dynamite was nice enough to give me an extra 2 pages for issue #1! 24 pages of mayhem for no additional cost! =)

Is Evil Ernie really 'evil'?

That's a great question! I was going a little nuts with getting the same questions in every interview I do, thank you so much for asking something new and great that I can give a fun answer for! =)

Okay... NO! He's not evil. I mean, its not so black and white. If you think that someone who kills the worst of the worst people in this big world of ours is evil, then yes, he is evil. But if you think the Punisher is doing God's work, you may feel the same way about Ernie. And ultimately, Ernie is a very kind soul. On a mission to sacrifice his soul to Hell in order to make the world a better place for the good people in it. That's what he believes he is doing, saving the world, by getting rid of the bastards. He's doing a public service. But the reality of the situation is that the good die young because Heaven needs soldiers for its eternal war against Hell. If the evil begin to die young, the balance will shift and Lucifer will destroy the kingdom of Heaven once and for all.

So...I guess Ernie is kind of evil, but he doesn't know that yet.

After the first arc, will he wander around or will he find a place to call home?

No, this book is never gonna stop moving. We're gonna cross the globe and root out the most evilsons of bitches you've ever set your eyes on! We're gonna be a nomadic book and with that said, I hope to get to some cross overs in the future with other Chaos Universe residence and maybe some more of Dynamite's horror comics universe.

Will Evil Ernie have a reoccurring nemesis or deal with different individuals each issue?

Yes, Ernie has TWO reoccurring nemeses: Heaven and Hell. Though he doesn't know that Hell doesn't have his best interests at Heart and he doesn't understand why Heaven care what he is doing. We introduce a Death Row inmate, simply known as "Veal." It's suggested that he may be some sort of cannibal who only eats children. I might let him get away. Also, he is an undead monster, so dead is never necessarily dead in this book, so anyone who dies in our first arc is technically up for grabs whenever I get a good reason to bring them back.

In the future I hope to see him contend with oodles of dastardly evil people and tango with the entities of Death and Fate. But ultimately Heaven and Hell will be his constant combatant. If Heaven is the WHITE and Hell is the BLACK, then Ernie is the GRAY.

Has there been any insane scenes you wanted to do and have been told to tone it down or have you been unrestrained?

Nothing yet...and we're doing some pretty crazy things and they don't look particularly fake either. We get some great revenge on a pedophile in the second issue and the dialogue certainly isn't pulling any punches. Fingers cross I don't get censored at the last minute. ;)

Thanks for the interview!

And you guys can thank Jesse by letting your comic shop know you're interested in buying this series in October. You can also follow Jess on Twitter at @TweetJesse.

Enjoy the following preview of
EVIL ERNIE #1

Written by Jesse Blaze Snider

Art by Jason Craig

Letters by Troy Peteri

Colors by Marcio Menyz & Adriano Augusto

Covers by Tim Seeley, Ardian Syaf, Nick Bradshaw & Dan Brereton

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now.



...CARMEN ESPOSITO, COMING TO YOU LIVE FROM WIDMARK PRISON, WHERE ERNEST FAIRCHILD IS MOMENTS AWAY FROM BECOMING THE YOUNGEST PERSON TO BE EXECUTED IN THE UNITED STATES IN OVER 60 YEARS.



JUNE 6TH, 2006...

...THE LUCRETIA MASSACRE...

MURDERED 665 PEOPLE IN HIS ADOPTED HOMETOWN...

...FIVE YEARS ON DEATH ROW...



THE PROTESTERS BEHIND ME RUN A WIDE RANGE...

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF THE VICTIMS...

RELIGIOUS FANATICS...

SATANIST CULT MEMBERS...

...ANTI DEATH PENALTY ACTIVISTS...

...AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.



EARLIER TODAY...

AN ODD LAST REQUEST WAS HONORED...

...AT THE ADVICE OF PRISON PSYCHOLOGIST DR. LEONARD PRICE...



...ALLOWING ERNIE TO WEAR THE BLACK LEATHER JACKET...

...INFAMOUS SMILEY-FACED BUTTON...

...DURING HIS EXECUTION.

...CLAIMS
THE BUTTON
SPEAKS TO
HIM.

...HELPED
HIM SELL HIS
SOUL TO THE
DEVIL.

...TOLD HIM
WHERE TO
FIND THE
ARSENIC.

...HOW TO DELIVER IT
INTO LUCRETIA'S WATER
SUPPLY.

DESPITE
THIS...

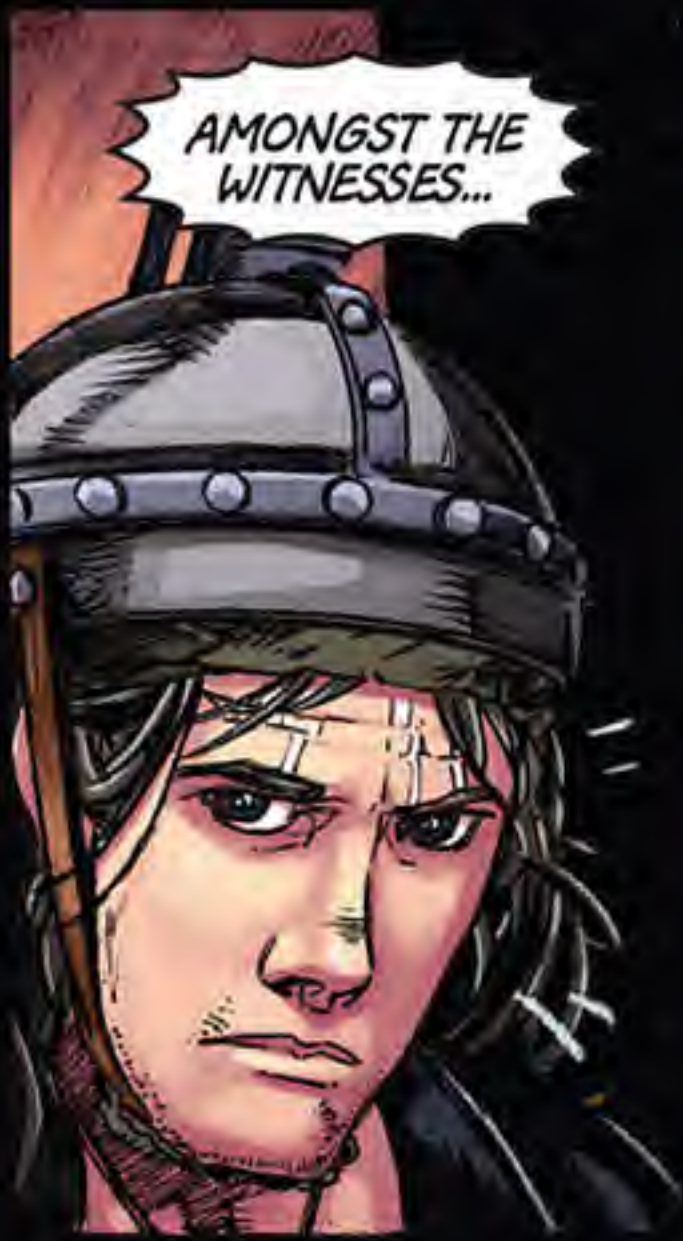
...PRICE CLAIMED THE
JACKET AND BUTTON
TO HAVE A "CALMING
INFLUENCE"...

AMEN.

WE GIVE HIM
GLORY AS WE GIVE
YOU INTO HIS ARMS IN
EVERLASTING PEACE, TO
BE PREPARED TO RETURN
INTO THE DENSER REALITY
OF GOD THE FATHER,
CREATOR OF ALL. AMEN,
AMEN, AMEN.

...LIKE IT
OR NOT...

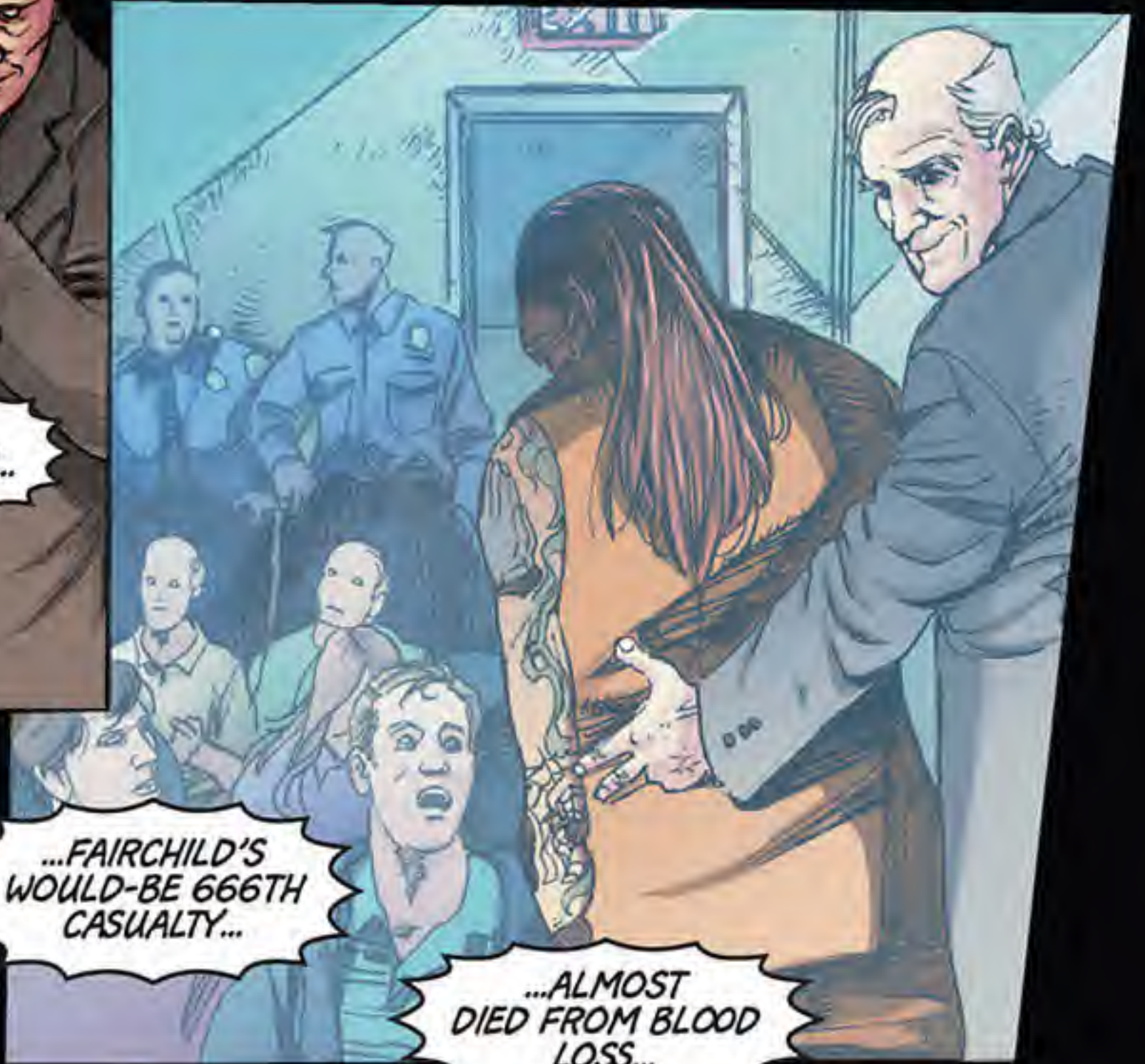
...THERE'S
NO DOUBT THE
BUTTON WILL BE
THE ONLY SMILING
FACE IN THE
EXECUTION
CHAMBER.



AMONGST THE WITNESSES...



...SOLE SURVIVOR...



...FAIRCHILD'S WOULD-BE 666TH CASUALTY...

...ALMOST DIED FROM BLOOD LOSS...



...STABBED OVER TEN TIMES...

...SCARRED FOR LIFE. HIS FOSTER FATHER...

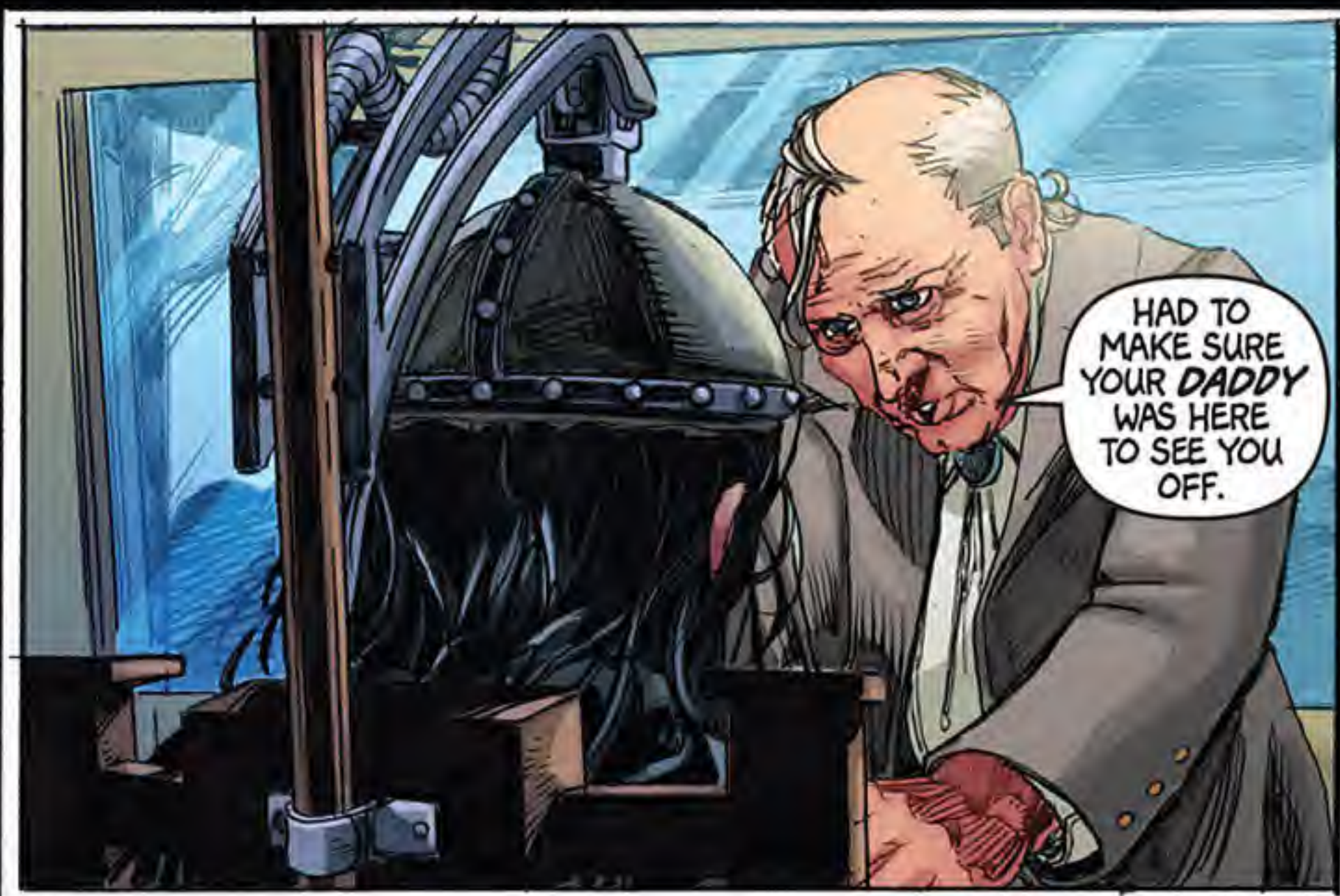


...BUFORD KING NO DOUBT HAS CONFLICTING FEELINGS ABOUT TODAY'S EXECUTION.

NOW WHO'S SMILING, YOU LITTLE BASTARD?



LIKE THAT...?



HAD TO MAKE SURE YOUR *DADDY* WAS HERE TO SEE YOU OFF.



WE'RE GONNA MISS YOU 'ROUND HERE, ERNIE.



YOU'RE GONNA BE HARD TO REPLACE, THAT'S FOR SURE.



AH, WELL.



ALL GOOD THINGS...



SMACK

NOW UNFORTUNATELY, I'M GONNA HAVE TO MISS ALL THE *FIREWORKS*. I'VE GOT A WHOLE MESS OF TV NEWS REPORTERS OUTSIDE JUST WAITING TO INTERVIEW ME. WHAT CAN I SAY; EVERYONE WANTS A PIECE OF THE MAN WHO HAD "*EVIL ERNIE*" PUT TO DEATH. BUT DON'T YOU WORRY...

...I MADE YOUR OLD MAN *PROMISE* TO FILL ME IN ON EVERY DETAIL.

EVERY DETAIL.

HAPPY TRAILS, BOY. TRY NOT TO PISS YOURSELF WHEN THEY FLICK THE SWITCH.

EVIL ERNIE ISSUE #1 IN STORES NOW!